

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.    An assembly for effecting the condition of a mitral  
5    valve annulus of a heart comprising:

        a guide wire configured to be advanced to the coronary  
sinus of the heart; and

        a mitral valve annulus device configured to be received  
10   on the guide wire and advanced into the coronary sinus of the  
heart on the guide wire and that reshapes the mitral valve  
annulus when in the coronary sinus of the heart.

2.    The assembly of claim 1 wherein the device is  
15   configured to be slidingly received on the guide wire.

3.    The assembly of claim 1 wherein the mitral valve  
annulus device has opposed ends and includes a guide wire  
20   engaging structure at at least one of the opposed ends.

4.    The assembly of claim 3 wherein the guide wire  
engaging structure includes a bore dimensioned to permit the  
25   guide wire to pass therethrough.

5.    The assembly of claim 4 wherein the device further  
includes a guide wire confining channel extending between the  
30   opposed ends.

6.    The assembly of claim 4 wherein the bore of the  
guide wire engaging structure is cylindrical in configuration.

7.    The assembly of claim 6 wherein the device further  
35   includes a guide wire confining channel extending between the

opposed ends and aligned with the bore.

5           8.    The assembly of claim 1 wherein the guide wire is  
formed of a material visible under X ray.

10           9.    The assembly of claim 1 wherein at least a portion  
of the device is visible under X ray.

          10.   The assembly of claim 1 wherein the device is  
visible under X ray.

15           11.   The assembly of claim 1 further including an  
elongated introducer configured to be received on the guide  
wire proximal to the device.

20           12.   The assembly of claim 11 wherein the introducer is  
configured to be slidably received on the guide wire.

25           13.   The assembly of claim 11 wherein the assembly  
further includes a releasable locking mechanism configured to  
releasably lock the device to the introducer.

30           14.   The assembly of claim 11 further including a guide  
tube having an inner lumen dimensioned for receiving the guide  
wire and the device and introducer when the device and  
introducer are received on the guide wire.

35           15.   A method of deploying a mitral valve annulus  
constricting device within the coronary sinus of a heart, the  
method including the steps of:

A. providing an elongated guide wire having a cross sectional dimension;

5        B. advancing the guide wire to the coronary sinus of the heart;

C. providing a guide tube having an inner lumen, the inner lumen having a cross sectional dimension greater than the cross sectional dimension of the guide wire;

10       D. advancing the guide tube to the coronary sinus of the heart on the guide wire with the guide wire within the inner lumen of the guide tube;

15       E. providing a mitral valve annulus device configured to be received on the guide wire and within the inner lumen of the guide tube, the device including a proximal end;

20       F. providing a flexible elongated introducer configured to be received on the guide wire and within the inner lumen of the guide tube, the introducer having a distal end;

G. placing the device onto the guide wire;

H. placing the introducer onto the guide wire;

I. engaging the introducer with the device;

25       J. pushing the device with the introducer in a distal direction along the guide wire and within the guide tube until the device is at least partially encircling the mitral valve within the coronary sinus of the heart; and

30       K. withdrawing the introducer and the guide tube from the heart.

35       16. The method of claim 15 wherein the engaging step includes the step I(1) of releasably locking the device to the introducer.

17. The method of claim 16 including the further step  
J(1) of releasing the device from the introducer prior to  
5       withdrawing the introducer.

18. A method of deploying a mitral valve annulus  
reshaping device within the coronary sinus of a heart, the  
10       method including the steps of:

      advancing a guide wire to the coronary sinus of the  
heart;

      advancing the elongated mitral valve annulus reshaping  
device on the guide wire and into the coronary sinus into a  
15       position such that the device at least partially encircles the  
mitral valve of the heart.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the advancing step  
20       further includes the steps of mounting an elongated flexible  
introducer onto the guide wire, engaging the introducer with  
the device, and pushing the device distally into the coronary  
sinus with the introducer.

20. The method of claim 19 including the further step of  
25       withdrawing the introducer after deploying the device.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the engaging step  
30       includes releasably locking the device to the introducer.

22. The method of claim 21 including the further step of  
releasing the device from the introducer prior to withdrawing  
35       the introducer.

23. The method of claim 19 including the further steps of:

5      providing an elongated flexible guide tube having an inner lumen, the inner lumen having a cross sectional dimension greater than the cross sectional dimension of the guide wire;

10      advancing the guide tube to the coronary sinus of the heart over the guide wire with the guide wire within the inner lumen of the guide tube; and

15      wherein the pushing step includes pushing the device along the guide wire and within the guide tube.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the engaging step includes releasably locking the device to the introducer.

20      25. The method of claim 24 including the further steps of releasing the device from the introducer and withdrawing the introducer and the guide tube after deploying the device.